

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /068 W
----- 073170

P R 211130Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7025

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01879

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, XA, XF

SUBJECT: UNESCO "GROUP OF 77": IRAN TO TAKE OVER
PRESIDENCY FROM ALGERIA

1. YUGOSLAV DEPUTY (PUNISA PAVLOVIC) PERMREP AND
SENEGALDESE DEPUTY PERMREP (DOUDOU DIENE) TOOK PAINS
TO ADVISE SEPARATELY DEPUTY US PERMREP AND DELOFF
THAT ON JANUARY 23 IRAN WILL BE ELECTED TO PRESIDENCY
OF UNESCO "77" IN PERSON OF THEIR UNESCO PERMREP
HAMID RAHNEMA, IN DELIBERATE MOVE TO REPLACE
INCUMBENT ALGERIAN, DEPUTY PERMREP AHMED DERRADJI.
AS LATTER APPARENTLY INTENDED TO SEEK REELECTION,
BOTH SOURCES STRESSED TO PERMDEL THAT IRANIAN
CANDIDACY--UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY AFRICAN, ASIAN,
LATIN AMERICAN AND ARAB "77" SUB-GROUPINGS LAST WEEK--
UNDERLINED "77" INTENTIONS TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE
STANCE TOWARDS AND FAVOR DIALOGUE WITH THE US-WEO'S
IN PARTICULAR AND MOVE AWAY FROM HARDLINE
CONFRONTATION APPROACH FAVORED BY THE INCUMBENT
ALGERIAN. BOTH SOURCES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD
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ACCORD PROPER SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS CHANGE IN THE "77"

LEADERSHIP.

2. FURTHER, BOTH SOURCES STATED THAT ALGERIAN DETHRONEMENT WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO UNESCO BUT THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL MOVE TO REPLACE ALGERIA WITH SRI LANKA IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE BUREAU OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHEN THESE MET IN COLOMBO THIS SUMMER. PAVLOVIC ALSO SAID THAT ONE OF THE ITEMS ON AGENDA OF THE FORTHCOMING FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE HEADS OF STATES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND CULTURE WHICH, HE ADDED, INEVITABLY WILL FOCUS ON UNESCO AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR SUCH COOPERATION AND THE IMPACT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UNESCO HAVE ON ITS ABILITY TO REMAIN A VIABLE INSTRUMENTALITY IN ITS FIELDS OF COMPETENCE. HE HOPED THAT US WOULD NOT MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO "CONVEY SOMEHOW ITS VIEWS" TO INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS OF COLOMBO MEETING ON BROADER ISSUES OF UNESCO AND UN-RELATED PROBLEMS.

3. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT HERE, IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY STRONG RESENTMENT-- PARTICULARLY WITHIN KEY BLACK AFRICAN GROUP--OVER THE PAST YEAR WITH THE ALGERIAN'S CONFRONTATION--SEEKING AND PERSONALLY HIGH-HANDED LEADERSHIP OF THE "77". SPECIFICALLY, DERRADJI HAS ASSERTEDLY OFTEN SPOKEN FOR THE "77" WITH LITTLE AND SOMETIMES NO CONSULTATION OF THE "77" BEFOREHAND. HE HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN VIRTUALLY EVERY INSTANCE OF CONFRONTATION AT UNESCO OVER THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS, INCLUDING HEAVY-HANDED LOBBYING IN FAVOR OF THE VARIOUS ANTI-ISRAELI DECISIONS INTRODUCED BY THE ARABS AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN LATE 1974; SEEKING TO SABOTAGE THE OCTOBER 1974 EXBD RESOLUTION IMPLICITLY FAVORING ISRAELI ENTRY INTO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "ZIONISM-RACISM EQUATION" IN THE MID-DECEMBER UNESCO MEETING ON A MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES DECLARATION.

4. ON THIS LATER ISSUE, PAVLOVIC TRIED HIS BEST TO ASSURE DEPUTY PERMREP THAT THE SO CALLED YUGOSLAV AMENDMENT AT DECEMBER MASS MEDIA MEETING WHICH, INTER ALIA, MADE REFERENCE TO UNGA RES. 3379 ("ZIONISM-CONFIDENTIAL

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RACISM EQUATION") WAS A RESULT OF "MISGUIDED BEHAVIOUR" OF YUGOSLAV EXPERT AT THE MEETING (BOGDAN OSOLNIK) AND IS REGRETTED BY GOY. PAVLOVIC STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT SUBJECT MATTER COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED BY US OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK WITH YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TO UN, PETRIC, AND ESPECIALLY THEIR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, WHO, PAVLOVIC FELT, SHOULD BE APPRISED OF USG FEELINGS ABOUT MASS MEDIA MEETING AND ITS ITS CON-

SEQUENCES FOR UNESCO.

5. IRAN'S REPRESENTATION IN UNESCO IS CLOSE TO
BECOMING A FAMILY MONOPOLY AS THE PERMREP IS THE
BROTHER OF EXEC BD MEMBER MAJID RAHNEMA; WHO HAVE RESPECTIVELY SERVED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01879

NESCO

AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION MEDIA AND MINISTER OF
SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

6. COMMENT: ALGERIA WILL REMAIN UNTIL THIS FALL'S
GENERAL CONFERENCE AS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE
"77" BUREAU THAT CURRENTLY INCLUDES TUNISIA AND SAUDI
ARABIA FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES, BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA FOR
LATIN AMERICA, IRAN AND PAKISTAN FOR ASIA, AND
SENEGAL AND BENIN (FORMERLY DAHOMEY) FOR AFRICA.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT INDICATION
OF LDC'S INTENTIONS TO AVOID, WHEREVER POSSIBLE,
BITTER CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE US AND OTHER NON-BLOC
BIG DONORS, ALTHOUGH IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WILL
SIGNAL A NEW POSTURE OF ACQUIESCENCE ON ISSUES
PERCEIVED BY THE "77" TO BE OF BROAD, COMMON, LDC

INTEREST, I.E. NON-MIDDLE EASTERN CONTROVERSIES. WE
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONFIRMATION OR OTHER INDICATION
THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE RECEIVED THAT SRI LANKA IS
LIKELY TO REPLACE ALGERIA AS THE HEAD OF THE NON-
ALIGNED IN THE MID-1976 CONFERENCE AT COLOMBO.

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